

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/060 W

-----141723Z 074061 /44

O R 141647Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3552
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CSAF WASHDC
OSAF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 3940
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD
ASD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1748

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MTOL, MILI, DA, NO
SUBJECT: F-16, GAO, LOA: WILL NORWAY ENTER THE SCRUM?

REFS: (A) COPENHAGEN 2142 (B) STATE 79759

1. TO DATE NORWEGIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGN IN DENMARK TO REOPEN F-16 DEBATE HAS BEEN MILD. VARIOUS OFFICIALS OF GON'S MOD HAVE ATTEMPTED TO PUT GAO REPORT INTO CONTEXT IN LINE WITH REFTELS AND TO CORRECT RECORD WHERE NECESSARY. MEDIA INTEREST IN ANY EVENT HAS BEEN LUKE-WARM.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT STORTING (PARLIAMENT)
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DEFENSE COMMITTEE WILL REPORT OUT F-16 BILL APPROXIMATELY 20 APRIL WITH LEGISLATIVE DEBATE SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE BY 26 APRIL. MOD OFFICIALS HAVE STATED THAT ALLEGED HIGH SPEED LANDING AND ENGINE STAGNATION PROBLEMS MENTIONED IN PRESS COVERAGE OF GAO REPORT CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO THEM. IN FACT, THEY HAD ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO CORRECT LANDING DIFFICULTIES THROUGH DRAG CHUTE AND THEIR TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAVE CONCLUDED

THAT IF F-16 HAD HIGH SPEED ENGINE PROBLEM (WHICH THEY RECOGNIZE IT DOES NOT) THAT DIFFICULTY, TOO, COULD BE CORRECTED DURING PRODUCTION PHASE. IN SHORT, GON OFFICIALS WE HAVE TALKED TO FORESEE NO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THEIR MAY DEADLINE FOR SIGNATURE OF LOA.

3. MOD SECRETARY GENERAL STEPHANSEN TOLD DCM APRIL 14 THAT HIS COUNTERPART (CHRISTIANSEN) IN COPENHAGEN HAD CALLED APRIL 13 TO INFORM HIM THAT MINISTER MOLLER IS FACING DEFINITE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES AND WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO ASK USG FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE (CHRISTIANSEN SAID UNTIL JUNE 1 THOUGH WE NOTE THIS IS NOT WHAT MOLLER HIMSELF TOLD AMBASSADOR DEAN). ACCORDING TO STEPHANSEN, CHRISTIANSEN TOLD HIM THAT THE GON IS INTERESTED IN GAINING SUPPORT FROM OTHER EPG NATIONS FOR EXTENSION, ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL COMMUNICATION REQUESTING SAME HAS YET BEEN MADE TO GON.

4. DCM ASKED STEPHANSEN IF FACT THAT GON FELT IT COULD MEET MAY 2 DEADLINE MEANT THAT GON WOULD NOT SUPPORT GON EXTENSION REQUEST. STEPHANSEN SAID THAT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO SAY WHAT HIS MINISTER'S DECISION WOULD BE ASSUMING MOLLER MADE A FORMAL REQUEST TO HIM FOR NORWEGIAN SUPPORT.

5. COMMENT: RELATIVELY STABLE NORWEGIAN POLITICAL SITUATION HAS CLEARLY MILITATED AGAINST F-16 BECOMING DOMESTIC ISSUE TO EXTENT IT HAS IN DENMARK. ALTHOUGH OFFSET WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROBLEM WITH GON WE DOUBT IT WILL BE OF SAME MAGNITUDE AS WITH DANES. ON WHOLE, VARIOUS GON REPS HAVE PRONOUNCED THEMSELVES SATISFIED WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF F-16 PROGRAM.
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GON ITSELF CAN ALMOST CERTAINLY MEET MAY 2 DEADLINE AS MATTERS NOW STAND, THOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FOR LARGER PURPOSES OF QUOTE NORDIC SOLIDARITY UNQUOTE IT MIGHT DECIDE TO GO ALONG WITH MOLLER'S NEXT MOVE. GON MIGHT ALSO BE RELUCTANT TO BE ONLY COUNTRY TO SIGN MAY 2.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: STEPHANSEN HAS ASKED IF WE COULD OBTAIN FOR HIM COPIES OF GAO REPORT. WOULD APPRECIATE TWO COPIES FOR HIM AND ONE FOR US, IF POSSIBLE.
ANDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DISPUTES, MILITARY AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OSLO01748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770130-0005
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770457/aaaabxmv.tel
Line Count: 107
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Reference: 77 COPENHAGEN 2142, 77 STATE 79759
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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SAS ID: 2806673
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-16, GAO, LOA: WILL NORWAY ENTER THE SCRUM?
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, MILI, DA, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cf3923a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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22 May 2009
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